

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

JOE HAND PROMOTIONS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEBORAH A. BARRY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. C12-2236RSL

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO STRIKE AND
GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION
TO AMEND

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff Joe Hand Promotions, Inc.'s "Motion to Strike Defendants Deborah A. Barry and Erik L. Emert's Affirmative Defenses," Dkt. 15, and Defendants Deborah Barry's and Erik Emert's ("Defendants") "Motion to Amend," Dkt. # 20. Having reviewed the parties' memoranda and supporting documents, and the remainder of the record, the Court finds as follows:

(1) This dispute arises out of Plaintiff's alleged contractual right to distribute the UFC 133: Evans v. Ortiz broadcast and Defendants' alleged unauthorized interception of this

1 broadcast via satellite and/or cable in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605 and/or § 553. Dkt. # 1 ¶¶ 3.1-
2 4.7. Defendants' answer to Plaintiff's complaint asserts 17 affirmative defenses. Dkt. # 12 at 7-
3 8.
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5 (2) On April 5, 2013, Plaintiff filed a motion to strike Defendants' affirmative defenses
6 on the grounds that they provide insufficient notice of the facts upon which they are based and
7 assert premature arguments about damages. Dkt. # 15. Shortly thereafter, Defendants sought
8 leave to amend their answer to remove some of the previously asserted affirmative defenses and
9 provide additional factual allegations to support the remaining affirmative defenses. Dkt. # 21.
10 Plaintiff has not opposed Defendant's motion.
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12 (3) Once a court has entered a pretrial scheduling order establishing a timetable for
13 amendment of pleadings, that scheduling order "controls the subsequent course of the action
14 unless modified by the court." Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604, 608 (9th
15 Cir. 1992) (internal quotation marks omitted). Defendants' motion is timely, as the deadline for
16 amending pleadings is October 9, 2013. Dkt. #16. Furthermore, the Court considers Plaintiff's
17 failure to respond to Defendant's motion "an admission that the motion has merit." LCR
18 7(b)(2). Thus, the Court GRANTS Defendants' motion to amend their answer. Plaintiff's
19 motion to strike is therefore DENIED as moot.
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22 (4) Finally, the Court thinks it important to note its discontent with defendants'
23 submission of 17 boilerplate affirmative defenses. Dkt. # 12 at 7-8. Asserting affirmative
24 defenses not grounded in fact is disfavored. Furthermore, the Court is concerned that
25 Defendants agreed to amend these defenses only after plaintiff filed this motion. See Dkt. # 15
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1 at 12-13. The Court reminds counsel that an attorney or party who fails to comply with the
2 Federal or Local Rules “or who presents to the court unnecessary motions or unwarranted
3 opposition to motions. . . or who otherwise so multiplies or obstructs the proceedings in a case”
4 may face sanctions and be required to satisfy personally the unnecessary expense. LCR 11(c).
5 The Court hereby instructs Defendants to review the affirmative defenses set forth in their
6 Amended Answer to determine whether further amendment or withdrawal is necessary. Plaintiff
7 may re-file its motion to strike and request its fees should it determine that further revisions are
8 necessary. The Court also urges both parties to cooperate with each other to avoid filing
9 unnecessary motions.
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12 For all of the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s motion to strike (Dkt. # 15) is DENIED and
13 Defendants’ motion to amend (Dkt. # 20) is GRANTED.
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15 DATED this 21st day of June, 2013.
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19 Robert S. Lasnik
20 United States District Judge
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